

Message Text

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44

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

IO-10 /057 W

----- 112718

R 311420Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1995

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 0684

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, CI, PINT

SUBJ: BIO - LUIS MENESES ARANDA

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

REF: BRUSSELS 0718

1. SUBJECT AT TIME OF SEPT. 1973 COUP WAS ALTERNATE MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE "CENTRAL UNICA DE TRABAJADORES DE CHILE -CUT" (THE BOARD WAS COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 50 ELECTED MEMBERS). MENESES WAS KNOWN TO CHILEAN LEADERS AS A MODERATE SOCIALIST WHO UNVARYINGLY SIDED WITH THE ANICETO RODRIQUEZ FACTION OF PARTY AND OPPOSED THE EXTREMIST ALTAMIRANO WING. HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE MORE OF A POLITICIAN THAN PROFESSIONAL TRADE UNIONIST. MOST OF THOSE WHO HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM DESCRIBE HIM AS INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, MODERATE IN HIS VIEWS AND WILLING TO COMPROMISE.

2. OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT HE WAS NAMED BY UP GOVERNMENT IN JUNE 1972 AS GOC TECH ADVISOR TO ILO DELEGATION AND THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN 1973 ILO MEETING AS A LABOR DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE. IN OCTOBER 1973 HE PARTICIPATED IN WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA, BULGARIA AS DELEGATE OF CUT.

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3. DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING COUP LABATT HEARD FROM SEVERAL CHILEAN UNION LEADERS WHO RETURNED FROM LIMA THAT MENESES WAS LIVING THERE UNDER THE NAME OF CARLOS PIZARRO (APPROPRIATELY SELECTED FOR THE LOCALE). HE SHOWED SEVERAL OF THESE LEADERS A CHILEAN PASSPORT WITH THIS NAME. HE MENTIONED TO ONE THAT HE WAS BEING SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY THE ICFTU. OTHER RECORDS HERE INDICATE THAT HE WAS ACTIVE IN CPUSTAL IN THE PRE-COUP ERA AND THAT HE IS A CHILEAN CITIZEN.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BRUSSELS DESCRIPTION OF ALTAMIRANO-KERSTEN ENCOUNTER SUGGESTS THAT LATTER COULD WELL USE SOME BASIC BIO DATA ON FORMER. FYI CARLOS ALTAMIRANO PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DOWNFALL OF ALLENDE MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE CHILEAN. DURING THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, ALLENDE ENCOUNTERED NO OPPOSITION STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE EXTREME LEFTWING, VIOLENCE-ADVOCATING CARLOS ALTAMIRANO. IT IS TRULY IN ALTAMIRANO'S CHARACTER THAT HE SHOULD NOW TRADE ON THE EMOTION OF ALLENDE'S MARTYRDOM. HE MADE FEW CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF MODERATE SOCIALISM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM CHILE. POPPER

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